

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 02131 250916Z

12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-07 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-02

NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05

ACDA-10 BIB-01 /100 W

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R 250836Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5773

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 2131

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, NL

SUBJECT: LABOR PARTY LEADER SEES MBFR AS KEY TO DUTCH

ADHERENCE TO NATO

1. ADDRESSING AMERICAN ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON GROUP

APRIL 24, ED VAN THIJN, FLOOR LEADER OF DUTCH LABOR

PARTY (PVDA) IN SECOND CHAMBER SAID THAT KEY FOR PVDA

IN ITS RE-EVALUATION OF NATO MEMBERSHIP THREE YEARS

HENCE WILL WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN MBFR TALKS. PVDA

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PAGE 02 THE HA 02131 250916Z

CONGRESS CALLED FOR RE-EVALUATION OF MEMBERSHIP IN 1978

WITH EYE TO PROGRESS AND EFFORT NATO WAS MAKING TOWARD DETENTE. VAN THIJN, WHO WAS IN THAT SMALL VANGUARD AT CONGRESS WHICH ACTIVELY SOUGHT TO LIMIT DAMAGE THREATENED BY FAR LEFT, TOLD AUDIENCE THAT "NATO FRUSTRATES DETENTE BY CONCENTRATING NEGOTIATIONS ON WARSAW PACT SUPERIORITY IN MANPOWER AND CONVENTIONAL FORCES." PVDA WOULD HAVE NATO ADD ITS SUPERIORITY IN TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO SCOPE OF NEGOTIATIONS.

2. OTHER POINTS COVERED BY VAN THIJN, WHO IS A PROTEGE OF PRIMIN DEN UYL, INCLUDED NEED FOR SOCIETY TO BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO WORKERS, GREATER NEED FOR GOVERNMENTAL PLANNING IN CONTROL OF THE ECONOMY, AND HOPE THAT DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM CAN OFFER ALTERNATIVE TO CAPITALISM AND COMMUNISM.

3. WHILE CRITICAL OF THE EEC BECAUSE IT FIRMLY ROOTED IN FREE-MARKET SYSTEM, VAN THIJN SAID PVDA LOOKS TO ITS FUTURE WITH SOCIALIST EYES. SHOULD UK AND BRITISH LABOR PARTY STAY IN AND PLAY ACTIVE ROLE, AS HE THOUGHT THEY MUST, SOCIALISTS WOULD HAVE ABOUT 40 PERCENT OF VOTES IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.

4. VAN THIJN COMMENTED THAT RECENT PVDA CONGRESS WAS STRONGLY ANTI-AMERICAN AND ANTI-CAPITALIST. ANTI-SMERICANISM WAS NO SURPRISE SINCE USG "DID NOT MISS AN OPPORTUNITY IN LAST FEW YEARS TO COMPROMISE ITSELF IN EYES OF PROGRESSIVE PEOPLES." VAN THIJN SAID, HOWEVER, HE BELIEVES US CAN RESTORE ITS IMAGE AS A REAL CHAMPION OF DEMOCRACY. INMEAN- WHILE, VOCIFEROUS LEFT-WING OF PARTY WILL STICK TO VIEW THAT DUTCH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO CONTRAVENES PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM.

5. RESPONDING TO QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THERE WAS ANY HOPE FOR SOCIAL-DEMOCRACY IN PORTUGAL, VAN THIJN SAID THAT IT, VIA PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY WAS ONLY HOPE TO PREVENT ESTABLISHMENT OF "LEFT-WING MILITARY DICTATORSHIP." DUCH PARLIAMENTARIAN, WHO HAS BEEN ACTIVE WITH PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS SAID HE EXPECTS PSP TO GET ABOUT 40 PERCENT OF VOTE IF ELECTIONS ARE HONEST.

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PAGE 03 THE HA 02131 250916Z

6. FULL TEXT OF TALK BEING POCHED TO EUR/WE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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